Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 071350Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4038

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL ASMARA 0531

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH SUDANESE CONSUL GENERAL

1. ON THE MORNING OF JULY 7, THE APO VISITED THE SUDANESE CONSUL GENERAL, SAID ABDULLAH ALI JABIR, TO REVIEW THE LOCAL SITUATION. ABDULLAH WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY CONSUMED BY THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE WEEKEND'S COUP ATTEMPT IN SUDAN. HE WAS LITERALLY SHAKING WITH ANGER WHILE LABORIOUSLY DETAILING THE OUTRAGES COMMITTED BY THE LIBYANS AND THEIR FOREIGN HENCHMEN. AMONG THE LATTER HE MENTIONED, CHADIANS, MALIANS, NIGERIANS AND ETHIOPIANS.

2. THE ETHIOPIANS HE DESCRIBED AS BEING PRIMARILY ARAB-SPEAKING ERITREAN MUSLIMS WHO WERE WORKING OR IN EXILE IN LIBYA. ALTHOUGH HE CONCEDED THAT SOME OF THE ERITREANS MAY HAVE TIES TO THE ELF OR PLF, AND THAT THE LIBYANS MAY HAVE PROMISED INCREASED ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION FROM A LIBYAN ORIENTED GOS, HE DID CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY HAD THE OFFICIAL SANCTION OF EITHER ORGAN-

IZATION. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID THE PUBLIC TRIALS OF ALL THE CAPTURED CONSPIRATORS WOULD BRING THIS ALL TO THE SURFACE.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF SUDAN ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY IN THE ERITREAN SITUATION, HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT NUMAYRI HAD INTENDED TO RAISE THE ISSUE DIRECTLY WITH TEFERI BANTI DURING THE OAU CONFERENCE IN MAURITIUS. ABDULLAH HAD NOT YET HEARD WHETHER THIS HAD OCCURRED, AS THE OBVIOUS FOCUS OF SUDANESE ATTENTIONS WOULD BE ON THEIR OWN PROBLEMS WITH LIBYA. HE INDICATED THAT THE GOS INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE THEIR EFFORTS AT MEDIATION, BUT THAT THESE EFFORTS WOULD INEVITABLY BE DISRUPTED BY THE ABORTED COUP AND ITS AFTERMATH.

4. ABDULLAH EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN WHAT ACTIONS THE USG WAS PLANNING TO TAKE WITH REGARD TO EAL AND THE EPMG'S INSISTENCE ON OPENING DIPLOMATIC POUCHES TO AND FROM ASMARA. I PROMISED TO KEEP HIM INFORMED ON WHATEVER INITIATIVE THE EMBASSY DECIDES UPON.

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE ADDIS ABABA

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